

NIST TIME AND FREQUENCY BULLETIN  
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This bulletin is published monthly. Address correspondence to:

Eyvon M. Petty, Editor  
Time and Frequency Division  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
325 Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80305-3328  
(303) 497-3295  
Email: [pettye@boulder.nist.gov](mailto:pettye@boulder.nist.gov)




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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ, Secretary  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, James M. Turner, Deputy Director

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## 1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BULLETIN

ACTS	- Automated Computer Time Service		
BIPM	- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures		
CS	- Cesium Standard		
GPS	- Global Positioning System		
IERS	- International Earth Rotation Service		
LORAN	- Long Range Navigation		
MC	- Master Clock		
MJD	- Modified Julian Date		
NIST	- National Institute of Standards and Technology		
NOAA	- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration		
NVLAP	- National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	ns	- nanosecond
SI	- International System of Units	μs	- microsecond
TA	- Atomic Time	ms	- millisecond
TAI	- International Atomic Time	s	- second
USNO	- United States Naval Observatory	min	- minute
UTC	- Coordinated Universal Time		

## 2. TIME SCALE INFORMATION

The values listed below are based on data from the IERS, the USNO, and NIST. The UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) values are averaged measurements from all available common-view GPS satellites (see bibliography on page 5). **UTC - UTC(NIST) data are on page 3.**

0000 HOURS COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME			
APR 2008	MJD	UT1-UTC(NIST) (±5 ms)	UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) (±20 ns)
3	54559	-364 ms	-13 ns
10	54566	-373 ms	-14 ns
17	54573	-380 ms	-15 ns
24	54580	-388 ms	-13 ns

The master clock pulses used by the WWV, WWVH, and WWVB time-code transmissions are referenced to the UTC(NIST) time scale. Occasionally, 1 s is added to the UTC time scale. This second is called a leap second. Its purpose is to keep the UTC time scale within ±0.9 s of the UT1 astronomical time scale, which changes slightly due to variations in the Earth's rotation.

**NOTE:** No leap second will be added at the end of June 2008.

Positive leap seconds, beginning at 23 h 59 min 60 s UTC and ending at 0 h 0 min 0 s UTC, were inserted in the UTC timescale on 30 June 1972, 1981-1983, 1985, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1997, and on 31 December 1972-1979, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1998, and 2005.

The use of leap seconds ensures that UT1 - UTC will always be held within ±0.9 s. The current value of UT1 - UTC is called the DUT1 correction. DUT1 corrections are broadcast by WWV, WWVH, WWVB, and ACTS and are printed below. These corrections may be added to received UTC time signals in order to obtain UT1.

DUT1 = UT1 - UTC =	-0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 13 March 2009
	-0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 29 November 2007
	-0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 14 June 2007
	-0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 15 March 2007

The difference between UTC(NIST) and UTC has been within  $\pm 100$  ns since July 6, 1994. The table below shows values of UTC - UTC(NIST) as supplied by the BIPM in their Circular T publication for the most recent 310 day period in which data are available. Data are given at 10-day intervals. Five day interval data are available in Circular T.

0000 Hours Coordinated Universal Time

DATE	MJD	UTC-UTC(NIST) ns
Mar. 24, 2008	54549	-12.6
Mar. 14, 2008	54539	-13.0
Mar. 04, 2008	54529	-9.9
Feb. 23, 2008	54519	-6.7
Feb. 13, 2008	54509	-5.1
Feb. 03, 2008	54499	-3.8
Jan. 24, 2008	54489	-1.2
Jan. 14, 2008	54479	-0.9
Jan. 04, 2008	54469	1.3
Dec. 25, 2007	54459	3.0
Dec. 15, 2007	54449	5.2
Dec. 05, 2007	54439	5.1
Nov. 25, 2007	54429	7.1
Nov. 15, 2007	54419	5.6
Nov. 05, 2007	54409	5.8
Oct. 26, 2007	54399	4.5
Oct. 16, 2007	54389	2.3
Oct. 06, 2007	54379	1.7
Sep. 26, 2007	54369	1.2
Sep. 16, 2007	54359	0.0
Sep. 06, 2007	54349	-2.1
Aug. 27, 2007	54339	-3.0
Aug. 17, 2007	54329	-2.3
Aug. 07, 2007	54319	-2.4
Jul. 28, 2007	54309	-1.8
Jul. 18, 2007	54299	-2.8
Jul. 08, 2007	54289	-1.7

### 3. PHASE DEVIATIONS FOR WWVB AND LORAN-C

WWVB - The values shown for WWVB are the time differences between the time markers of the UTC(NIST) time scale and the first positive-going zero voltage crossover measured at the transmitting antenna. The uncertainty of the individual measurements is  $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{s}$ . The values listed are for 1300 UTC.

LORAN-C - The values shown for Loran-C represent the daily accumulated phase shift. The phase shift is measured by comparing the output of a Loran receiver to the UTC(NIST) time scale for a period of 24 h. If data were not recorded on a particular day, the symbol (-) is printed. The stations monitored are Baudette, Minnesota (8970) and Boise City, Oklahoma (9610). The monitoring is done from the NIST laboratories in Boulder, Colorado.

**Note: The values shown for Loran-C are in nanoseconds.**

DATE	MJD	UTC(NIST)-WWVB (60 kHz)	UTC(NIST) - LORAN PHASE (ns)	
		ANTENNA PHASE ( $\mu\text{s}$ )	LORAN-C (BAUDETTE) (8970)	LORAN-C (BOISE CITY) (9610)
04/01/2008	54557	5.65	+10	-1
04/02/2008	54558	5.65	-26	-33
04/03/2008	54559	5.65	-38	+19
04/04/2008	54560	5.65	-2	-5
04/05/2008	54561	5.65	-15	-7
04/06/2008	54562	5.65	+23	-9
04/07/2008	54563	5.65	+31	+27
04/08/2008	54564	5.65	-21	-18
04/09/2008	54565	5.65	-14	+17
04/10/2008	54566	5.65	+5	+9
04/11/2008	54567	5.65	+18	+3
04/12/2008	54568	5.65	-56	-7
04/13/2008	54569	5.65	+23	-3
04/14/2008	54570	5.65	+15	-15
04/15/2008	54571	5.65	+8	+16
04/16/2008	54572	5.65	-16	-16
04/17/2008	54573	5.65	+35	+30
04/18/2008	54574	5.65	+4	-13
04/19/2008	54575	5.65	+19	+12
04/20/2008	54576	5.65	+2	+3
04/21/2008	54577	5.65	-26	-9
04/22/2008	54578	5.65	-4	-14
04/23/2008	54579	5.65	+27	+24
04/24/2008	54580	5.65	-25	-21
04/25/2008	54581	5.65	-8	+2
04/26/2008	54582	5.65	-1	-3
04/27/2008	54583	5.65	+8	-1
04/28/2008	54584	5.65	+7	+4
04/29/2008	54585	5.65	+2	+15
04/30/2008	54586	5.65	+37	+8



#### 4. BROADCAST OUTAGES OVER FIVE MINUTES AND WWVB PHASE PERTURBATIONS

OUTAGES OF 5 MINUTES OR MORE						PHASE PERTURBATIONS 2 ms			
Station	Apr 2008	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	Apr 2008	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	04-16-08	54572	0522	0618	60 kHz				
WWVB	04-09-08	54565	0710	0817	60 kHz				
WWVB	04-02-08	54558	1156	1236	60 kHz				
WWV									
WWVH									

#### 5. NOTES ON NIST TIME SCALES AND PRIMARY STANDARDS

Primary frequency standards developed and operated by NIST are used to provide accuracy (rate) input to the BIPM. NIST-F1, a cold-atom cesium fountain frequency standard, has served as the U.S. primary time and frequency standard since 1999. The uncertainty of NIST-F1 is currently about 5 parts in  $10^{16}$ .

The AT1 scale is run in real-time by use of data from an ensemble of cesium standards and hydrogen masers. It is a free-running scale whose frequency is maintained as nearly constant as possible by choosing the optimum weight for each clock that contributes to the computation.

UTC(NIST) is generated as an offset from our real-time scale AT1. It is steered in frequency towards UTC by use of data published by the BIPM in its Circular T. Changes in the steering frequency will be made, if necessary, at 0000 UTC on the first day of the month, and occasionally at mid-month. A change in frequency is limited to no more than  $\pm 2$  ns/day. The frequency of UTC(NIST) is kept as stable as possible at other times.

UTC is generated at the BIPM using a post-processed time-scale algorithm and is not available in real-time. The parameters that we use to generate UTC(NIST) in real-time are therefore based on an extrapolation of UTC from the most recent available data.

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Weiss, M.A.; Allan, D.W.; "An NBS Calibration Procedure for Providing Time and Frequency at a Remote Site by Weighting and Smoothing of GPS Common View Data," *IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement*, Vol. IM-36, pp. 572-578 (1987).

Table 7.1 lists parameters that are used to define UTC(NIST) with respect to our real-time scale AT1. To find the value of UTC(NIST) - AT1 at any time T (expressed as a Modified Julian Day, including a fraction if needed), the appropriate equation to use is the one for which the desired T is greater than or equal to the entry in the  $T_0$  column and less than the entry in the last column. The values of  $x_s$ ,  $x$ , and  $y$  for that month are then used in the equation below to find the desired value. The parameters  $x$  and  $y$  represent the offset in time and in frequency, respectively, between UTC(NIST) and AT1; the parameter  $x_s$  is the number of leap seconds applied to both UTC(NIST) and UTC as specified by the IERS. Leap seconds are not applied to AT1.

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 7.1 UTC(NIST) - AT1 = <math>x_s + x + y*(T - T_0)</math></p>					
Month	$x_s$ (s)	$x$ (ns)	$y$ (ns/d)	$T_0$ (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
Jun 08	-33	-321208.7	-38.4*	54618	54648
May 08	-33	-320018.3	-38.4	54587	54618*
Apr 08	-33	-319288.7	-38.4	54568	54587
Apr 08	-33	-318867.4	-38.3	54557	54568†
Mar 08	-33	-318178.0	-38.3	54539	54557
Mar 08	-33	-317684.0	-38.0	54526	54539†
Feb 08	-33	-316582.0	-38.0	54497	54526
Jan 08	-33	-315974.0	-38.0	54481	54497
Jan 08	-33	-315405.5	-37.9	54466	54481†
Dec 07	-33	-314230.6	-37.9	54424	54466
Nov 07	-33	-313813.7	-37.9	54435	54424
Nov 07	-33	-313091.7	-38.0	54405	54435†
Oct 07	-33	-312635.7	-38.0	54393	54405
Oct 07	-33	-311911.8	-38.1	54374	54393†
Sep 07	-33	-310768.8	-38.1	54344	54374
Aug 07	-33	-309587.7	-38.1	54313	54344
Jul 07	-33	-308940.0	-38.1	54296	54313
Jul 07	-33	-308408.0	-38.0	54282	54296†
Jun 07	-33	-307762.0	-38.0	54265	54282
Jun 07	-33	-30726.3	-37.9	54252	54265†
May 07	-33	-306738.7	-37.9	54238	54252
May 07	-33	-306091.0	-38.1	54221	54238†

† Rate change in mid-month

†† Rate change one day early

\*Provisional value